

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2387

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8607

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LE, US

SUBJECT: COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS OF FY 77 MAP AND IMET

REF: (A) STATE 270572, (B) BEIRUT 7200, (C) STATE 224068

1. EMBASSY AND DATT WERE STUNNED BY FY 77 IMET ALLOCATION FOR LEBANON TRANSMITTED REF A. SINCE USG HAS INDICATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT WE STAND READY TO PLAY AN APPROPRIATE ROLE IN RECONSTITUTING A LEBANESE NATIONAL ARMY (REF C, AS EXAMPLE), WE CONSIDER IT PARTICULARLY UNTIMELY FOR US TO REDUCE OUR IMET PROGRAM FROM A TENTATIVE DOLS 300,000 TO A MEAGER DOLS 50,000.

2. PAR 3-C OF REF B EXPLAINS IN SOME DETAIL OUR CONCEPTION OF LEBANON'S MILITARY TRAINING NEEDS. IN ADDITION, PROPOSED FY 77 IMET PROGRAM WAS NOT A UNILATERAL EFFORTS, BUT WAS A PRODUCT OF A JOINT DAO/LEBANESE ARMY TRAINING WORKSHOP. IN OTHER WORDS, THE LEB ARMY AND THE MOD ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE AMOUNT TENTATIVELY PROGRAMMED AND THE SEVERE CUT WILL CERTAINLY COME AS SEVERE SHOCK TO LEBANESE MILITARY. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THERE IS URGENT NEED FOR A BASIC CADRE OF JUNIOR AND MIDDLE GRADE OFFICERS TRAINED IN US LEADERSHIP AND MODERN MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES IF PRESIDENT SARKIS IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN REESTABLISHING AN EFFICIENT NON-CONFESSIONAL NATIONAL ARMY. AS DOD IS AWARE, WITH THE CURRENT TUITION PRICE INCREASES, DOLS 50,000 WOULD ALLOW LEBANON TO SEND ONLY FOUR OFFICERS

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TO OFFICER ADVANCE COURSES IN ADDITION TO C&GSC. IN OUR ESTIMATION,

THE IS REDUCTION WILL SEVERELY LIMIT OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO SARKIS AS HE MOVES TOWARD REESTABLISHING ORDER IN LEBANON AND DEVELOPING NEW MILITARY LEADERS.

3. ONCE LEBANON BEGINS TO RECONSTRUCT ITS MILITARY INSTITUTIONS, OUR TRAINING ASSISTANCE FOR THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES WILL BE AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE LONG RANGE RESTORATION OF INTERNAL SECURITY. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DECISION TO REDUCE THIS YEAR'S TRAINING ALLOCATION TO LEBANON BE RECONSIDERED AND THAT AS A MINIMUM, THE LEBANON PROGRAM BE ALLOCATED THE FULL DOLS 300,000 THAT HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR FY 77 AND DISCUSSED WITH THE LEB ARMY. WE WILL DEFER PROGRAMMING ACTION BASED ON THE DOLS 50,000 LEVEL UNTIL ADVISED OF YOUR FINAL DECISION.
LANE

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